

**Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application No. 10/043,288**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) In a system for manufacturing fibers including a spin beam assembly, and a quenching chamber in communication with a drawing chamber, wherein the system maintains an enclosed environment between the spin beam assembly, the quenching chamber and the drawing chamber to prevent uncontrolled gas currents from entering the enclosed environment, a method of forming a non-woven web of fibers comprising:

(a) delivering a plurality of polymer streams from the spin beam assembly to spinneret orifices, wherein at least two of the polymer streams include differing polymer components;

(b) extruding the plurality of polymer streams through the spinneret orifices to form a plurality of filaments;

(c) quenching the extruded filaments by contacting the filaments with a gas stream in the quenching chamber;

(d) drawing the quenched filaments in the drawing chamber; and

(e) depositing the drawn filaments onto a forming surface to form a non-woven fibrous web on the forming surface.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein step (a) includes:

(a.1) segregating polymer streams including differing polymer components into a plurality of manifolds; and

(a.2) independently maintaining the polymer streams in each manifold at different temperatures.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein step (a) includes:
  - (a.1) delivering segregated polymer streams at varying flow rates to the spinneret orifices.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
  - (f) forming an array of multicomponent fibers.
11. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
  - (f) forming an array of bicomponent fibers.
12. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
  - (f) forming an array of single component fibers, wherein at least one single component fiber consists of a polymer component that is different from a polymer component of at least one other single component fiber.